



# State of New Hampshire

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

129 PLEASANT STREET, CONCORD, NH 03301-3857  
603-271-9200 FAX: 603-271-4912 TDD ACCESS: RELAY NH 1-800-735-2964

JEFFREY A. MEYERS  
COMMISSIONER

April 12, 2017

The Honorable Frank R. Kotowski, Chairman  
Health and Human Services Oversight Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 205  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

The Honorable Neal M. Kurk, Chairman  
Legislative Fiscal Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 210  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

***Re: Developmental Disability Wait List – Through March 31, 2017***

Dear Representatives Kotowski and Kurk:

I am writing to provide a further update to the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Committee on the status of the Department and area agencies' efforts to provide services to people with developmental disabilities across New Hampshire. This letter updates the number of people expected to be served in State Fiscal Year 2017 and describes the increase in the number of people seeking services and how the Department is proposing to manage this increase. The data in this letter is through March 31, 2017.

The Department is on track to serve a total of 488 people in the current biennium, which are some 73 people more than planned in the SFY 2016-2017 budget. In SFY 2016, we served a total of 232 people. In the current fiscal year we anticipate serving 256 people.

Because a total of 115 people who had previously come off the Wait List prior to July 1, 2016, have required new services since July 1, 2016, and a total of 44 new people became eligible between July 1, 2016, and October 30, 2016, the Wait List at the end of October was 203 people.

In response, the Department utilized Wait List funds that were carried over from FY 2016 to FY 2017 to provide services to an additional 70 people during October and November; the Wait List at the end of November was 161 people. As of February 28, 2017, the Wait List grew to 200 people and as of March 31, 2017, the number grew to 224 people waiting for services. Of the 224 people waiting, 55 are young adults who have left the school system at the age of twenty-one and are in need of adult services. This is close to where we have expected to be at this time of the fiscal year. The Wait List is fluid and we expect this number to increase between now and the end of June as students continue to transition from the school system to the adult service system. The Department is working closely with the area agencies to handle crisis situations for those waiting for services. Attached to this letter is a chart that tracks the DD Wait List since July 2016 by category of recipient. I have also attached a quarterly summary that goes back to 2006 that demonstrates the fluidity of the Wait List.

Not all of the 224 people are without services. Of this total, 128 are receiving one or more service. They are on the Wait List because of a change in need and/or circumstance and they are seeking additional services from those they are currently receiving. Under the administrative rules governing the DD Wait List, people who have come off the Wait List and are receiving services must be placed back on the Wait List if they require additional services. Of these 128 people, 17 are served by one program that is requesting additional funds for those served to make required programmatic changes to meet service delivery expectations. Workforce and provider capacity challenges often impact the availability of these additional services.

The increased number of newly eligible people and those requiring new services is significant. At the time the SFY 2016-17 budget was initially passed, it assumed that 112, then waiting for services, plus 150 additional people would be served in SFY 2016, or 262 people. In fact, 383 people sought DD Wait List services in SFY 2016. Thus far in SFY 2017, a total of 256 people have required services. This number is about 100 more people than anticipated thus far.

At the start of SFY 16, the DD system was faced with two significant challenges, programmatically and fiscally, and both impacted the Wait List. The first was the change in the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act. There was a change in law that removed the exemption for companionship services. Prior to this change, staff who were considered companions were exempt from overtime and minimum wage rules. In the DD system, companions were used to provide live-in care. The second challenge was the closure of Lakeview. All of those people served at Lakeview from New Hampshire had to be relocated. All were at significantly higher cost to what was budgeted and paid to Lakeview. Those served at Lakeview were very high-need people and, to this day, the area agencies have struggled to fill the gaps in service for people with complex needs that were created with the close of Lakeview. There is a need to increase capacity in New Hampshire at the community level for the treatment of such people.

Additionally, while the projected average cost for DD services that was assumed in the current budget was approximately \$44,000 per person annually, the actual average cost for services in SFY 2016 was \$50,303. For SFY 2017, the average cost is projected at \$50,197.

The table below captures the numbers related to the Wait List funding activity for FY 16 and through March 31, 2017:

Number of people on the Wait List as of 7/1/2015	+101
Number of additional people requesting Wait List funding during FY 16	+282
Total number of people needing Wait List funding for FY 16	383
Number of people who received Wait List funds during FY 16	-232
Number of people remaining on the Wait List as of 6/30/2016	151
Number of additional people requesting funding through March 31, 2017	+253
Number of people who were taken off the Wait List through February 28, 2017	-180
Number of people remaining on the Wait List as of February 28, 2017	224

RSA 171-A refers to three distinct groups of people as prospective recipients of Wait List funds. The below table provides information regarding the number of people receiving Wait List funds in each of those three groups for FY 16:

Number of students receiving FY 16 Wait List funds	126	54%
Number of new eligible people receiving FY 16 Wait List funds	44	19%
Number of people with additional needs receiving FY 16 Wait List funds	62	27%
Total number of people receiving Wait List funds during FY 16	232	100%

The numbers below are for the same three groups through March 31, 2017:

Number of students receiving Wait List funds during the first quarter of SFY 2017	146	57%
Number of new eligible people receiving Wait List funds during the first half of SFY 2017	23	9%
Number of people with additional needs receiving Wait List funds during the first half of SFY 2017	87	34%
Total number of people receiving Wait List funds during the half of SFY 2017	256	100%

The Department is continuing to work actively and collaboratively with the area agencies to meet the needs of those who are in need of services and have begun planning for the next biennium regarding those who will be in need of services. I look forward to presenting this information at the upcoming Fiscal Committee meeting and the Health and Human Services Oversight Committee meeting.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Meyers  
Commissioner

cc: His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu  
The Honorable Executive Councilors  
The Honorable Chuck W. Morse, Senate President  
The Honorable Shawn Jasper, Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Community Support Network, Inc.  
Medical Care Advisory Committee

**Bureau of Developmental Services  
Wait List Numbers for the 16 and 17 Biennium**

**DD Dashboard Numbers**

	7/31/2016		8/31/2016		9/30/2016		10/31/2016		11/30/2016		12/31/2016		1/31/2017		2/28/2017		3/31/2017								
	OFF	NEW	OFF	NEW	OFF	NEW	OFF	NEW	OFF	NEW	OFF	NEW	OFF	NEW	OFF	NEW	OFF	NEW							
Students transitioning into the adult service system	36	-3	8	41	-6	7	42	-7	9	44	-14	3	33	-1	6	38	-2	13	49	-1	4	52	-6	9	55
New eligibles	32	-3	8	37	-1	11	47	-3	0	44	-7	4	41	-1	4	44	-1	0	43	-3	2	42	-6	5	41
Those requiring additional services	98	-2	8	104	0	17	121	-21	15	115	-36	8	87	-4	12	95	-6	13	102	-7	11	106	-10	32	128
TOTAL	166	-8	24	182	-7	35	210	-31	24	203	-57	15	161	-6	22	177	-9	26	194	-11	17	200	-22	46	224

**People to be Served with WL funds**

	Total To Be Served
FY 16	232
FY 17 Original	183
FY 17 Additional	37
FY 17 Additional as of 11/1/16*	36
Total	488

# DD WAIT LIST

